

## EMS on the scene

# Capabilities added to base fire emergency services

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey  
Kukini Managing Editor

In times of emergency, when minutes matter most, a service has been added that will keep their base response at its finest.

Hickam Fire Emergency Services, formerly known as the base fire department, has added Emergency Medical Response to its growing list of base response services.

Including ambulance service and pre-hospital medical care, these new programs are the first time a base has combined paramedics and transport in one unified mission in the Air Force.

A study had shown that over the last three years the average Advance Life Support call, previously provided by city and county of Honolulu, averaged a 16-minute response time to Hickam.

Now that the services are provided in-house, the response time has been cut dramatically, according to William Moore, Hickam fire chief.

"We can get a crew anywhere on base in about five minutes from call to on scene," Chief Moore said.

The ambulance is staffed by Hickam firefighters licensed in the State of Hawaii as Mobile Intensive Care Technicians and with The National Registry of EMTs, according to base emergency services personnel.

"We have more than a dozen firefighters who have completed the 120-hour EMT course at Trippler," Chief Moore said. "They perform shoulder-to-shoulder with the paramedics in performance of their varying duties."

And these new capabilities aren't

reserved for inside Hickam's gates, he said.

"When our team members deploy, it adds another training dimension to their ability to provide emergency services."

Base firefighters are on stand by deploy in support of tsunami disaster relief.

Hickam Fire Emergency Services has a lengthy involvement in prehospital medical care dating back to 1975, when it graduated its first EMT from Queens Medical Center.

Every firefighter assigned to the Hickam Fire Emergency Services Flight are trained and certified at some level of pre-hospital care; First Responder, EMT, or MICT. The MICT training takes a minimum of 18 months and is taught through the University of Hawaii system.

Three new firefighter/paramedics have been hired with efforts underway to hire four additional MICTs and incorporate them into the total firefighting force.

The "fire-based" ambulance service aligns with the national trend and is a seamless tie-in with the department's other emergency services. Since 1988, Hickam Fire Emergency Services has served as the central dispatch center for all medical emergencies. In July 2004 it became a fully licensed Emergency-911, Emergency Medical Dispatch center. Operators are trained to national standards with two certified operators on-duty at all times.

For more information, contact the Hickam Fire Emergency Services at 449-8115.



(From left) Senior Airman Anthony Reynolds, Warren Ferguson and Roger Pinell, 15th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, make a patient assessment, taking vital statistics and checking blood pressure of the patient during the training.

Photo by Mike Dey

## Documentary shot on Hickam garners national-level awards

By Tech. Sgt. Mark Munsey  
Kukini Managing Editor

A video one year in the making documenting the remembrances of Vietnam veteran's returning to a prisoner of war commemoration on Hickam 30 years in the making was celebrated at year's end as best in its class.

Angel's Among Us, sponsored by the 15th Airlift Wing History Office, is an oral compilation of the experiences and memories of several military veterans who were Vietnam POWs in the late 60s and early 70s. They shared their tales while here for the 30th anniversary of Operation Homecoming, the program that was responsible for repatriating those same POWs starting in February 1973.

"We knew the ceremony was going to be a big thing, and we decided it would be a shame not to talk to the POWs and get their stories," said Gary Miller, 15th AW History office.

The documentary has garnered two national-level awards.

It was selected from among 51 military productions to win the documentary category of the 2004 Defense Visual Information Production Awards. It also received the Platinum Best in Show at the 2004 Aurora Awards, an independent film and video competition.

Steve Diamond, 15th AW historian, believes the value of the documentary is more than just the recognition it has received.

"It shows there is enduring interest in the Vietnam War and the stories the POWs have to share," Mr. Diamond said. "The important thing is there are lessons for our young troops to learn about what they may be facing in times of war."

The documentary is available for sign out at the base library. For more information on base history programs, contact the 15th AW Historian's office at 449-5814.

